

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 10, 2010. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, and 14 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, and 11 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13, and 14 have been amended to define aspects of Applicant's invention more clearly. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in FIG. 6 and in the description thereof in the specification.¹ Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Claim 11 has been amended to be directed to a "non-transitory computer-readable storage medium," as suggested by the Examiner. It is believed that the rejection under Section 101 has been obviated, and therefore its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "non-transitory" added to Claim 11. Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a computer-readable storage medium can be transitory or non-transitory. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added to the specification.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, and 14 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003060 (*Asoh et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0029531 (*Ohta*); and that Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Asoh et al.* in view of *Ohta*, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,465 (*Suda et al.*) For at least the

¹ Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

following reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 10, and 11, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a connection control method for an information processing apparatus. The method includes receiving identification information identifying a wireless network. The wireless network identified by the identification information received is joined wirelessly. One or more information processing apparatuses in the wireless network joined are inquired of, to determine whether the one or more information processing apparatuses have a function of performing print processing. If a response to the inquiring is received, an information processing apparatus having the function of performing print processing in the wireless network joined is determined according to the response to the inquiring, and the print processing is requested from the information processing apparatus having the function of performing print processing.

Notably, if no information processing apparatus having the function of performing print processing is detected in the wireless network joined, or the print processing cannot be performed by the information processing apparatuses requested to perform the print processing, the wireless network joined previously is changed to another wireless network identified by the identification information received. Additionally, when the wireless network previously joined is changed, the inquiring, the detecting, and the requesting are performed again.

By virtue of the above notable features, inquiries can be performed via a plurality of wireless networks to find an information processing apparatus that has the function of performing print processing and that can perform the print processing, for example.

Asoh et al. is understood to relate to a computer that can be connected to a plurality of networks (*see* paragraph 2). *Asoh et al.* discusses that, to use a predetermined network connection, an object may be selected from a set of objects, wherein each object includes physical and logical network configuration information (*see* paragraph 12). *Asoh et al.* also discusses that a network adapter can be changed when a network connection is selected, that a logical network configuration corresponding to a selected network adapter can be set up, that identification information can be registered, and that information of the selected network adapter and the identification information may be stored (*see* paragraph 13). The identification information relates location information to network connection information (*see* paragraph 14). For example, if a notebook computer is used on a network in a home and on a network in an office, the computer can be connected to the networks in the home and in the office by selecting a location name of “home” and “office,” respectively (*see* paragraph 15 and FIG. 10).

Applicant agrees with the conclusion in the Office Action that *Asoh et al.* fails to disclose inquiring of information apparatuses in a first wireless network whether the information processing apparatuses have a function of performing print processing, and, if no information processing apparatus having the function of performing the print processing is detected in the first wireless network, inquiring of information processing apparatuses in a second wireless network whether the information processing apparatuses have the function of performing the print processing (*see* Office Action, pages 4 and 5). Moreover, nothing in *Asoh et al.* is believed to teach or suggest that, if no information processing apparatus having a function of performing print processing function is detected in a first wireless network, the first wireless network is changed to a second wireless network, information processing apparatuses in the second wireless network are inquired of, to determine whether they have the function of performing print

processing, an information processing apparatus having the function of performing print processing in the second wireless network is detected, and that the print processing is requested from the information processing apparatus in the second wireless network.

Ohta is understood to relate to a system for printing information at a conveniently located printer station that can be selected in a predetermined area (*see* paragraph 1). *Ohta* discusses that a plurality of printer stations can be provided in the predetermined area and can be networked to a print server that stores information, that a first wireless signal can be sent from a portable device directly to the printer stations, that a positional relation between the portable device and each of the printer stations can be determined based upon the first wireless signal, that at least one of the printer stations can be selected based upon the positional relation, that information can be received at a selected printer station, and that the information can be printed at the selected printer station (*see* paragraph 7). Nothing in *Ohta* is believed to teach or suggest that, if no printer station is detected in a first wireless network, the first wireless network is changed to a second wireless network, printer stations in the second wireless network are inquiring of, a printer station in the second wireless network is detected, and that printing is requested from the printer station in the second wireless network.

In summary, Applicant submits that a combination of *Asoh et al.* and *Ohta*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a connection control method that includes an “inquiry step,” a “detection step,” a “requesting step,” and a “changing step of changing the wireless network joined previously to another wireless network identified by the identification information received in the reception step, if no information processing apparatus having the function of performing print processing in the wireless network joined previously is detected in the detection step or the print processing cannot

be performed by the information processing apparatuses requested to perform the print processing in the request step, wherein, when the wireless network joined previously is changed in the changing step, the inquiring in the inquiry step, the detecting in the detection step, and the requesting in the request step are performed again,” as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Asoh et al.* and *Ohta*, whether considered separately or in combination, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

A review of the other art cited in the Office Action has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicant’s opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of *Asoh et al.* and *Ohta*, as a reference against Claim 1 discussed above. Thus, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly patentable over the art cited in the Office Action.

Independent Claims 10 and 11 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in the present application depend from independent Claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for responding to the Office Action is deemed necessary for this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment

timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank A. DeLucia
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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